

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method of notifying an operator of an event with respect  
2 to a hard copy output engine, comprising:

3                 detecting a status of a portion of the hard copy output engine from  
4 a sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine; and

5                 displaying, in response to detecting, a graphical user interface  
6 including information describing the portion and the status, and including a set  
7 of user-selectable options including: dismissal of the graphical user interface,  
8 assistance in ordering consumables or services identified by the graphical user  
9 interface, deferment of action with respect to the consumables or services  
10 identified by the graphical user interface for a user-selectable interval and  
11 inhibiting further displaying of the graphical user interface.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a status includes  
2 detecting a toner low or toner out status.

1           3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 composing an electronic message including information describing  
3 the status; and  
4                 transmitting the electronic message.

1           4. The method of claim 3, wherein composing an electronic  
2 message includes composing the electronic message to include information  
3 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom  
4 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected  
5 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,  
6 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind  
7 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,

8 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
9 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
10 maintenance items.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a status includes  
2 detecting a status from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner low,  
3 preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of  
4 component parts, consumables orders and low or "out of" status for other  
5 consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output  
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers  
3 and printers.

1 7. The method of claim 3, wherein transmitting the electronic  
2 message comprises transmitting an electronic message including a consumable  
3 order.

1 8. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein to cause a processor  
3 to:

4 detect a status of a portion of the hard copy output engine from a  
5 sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine; and  
6 display, in response to the status, a graphical user interface  
7 including information to describe the portion and the status, and to include a set  
8 of user-selectable options including: dismissal of the graphical user interface,  
9 assistance in ordering consumables or services identified by the graphical user  
10 interface, deferment of action with respect to the consumables or services  
11 identified by the graphical user interface for a user-selectable interval and  
12 inhibiting further displaying of the graphical user interface.

1                           10. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2 readable code is further configured to cause a processor to:

3 compose an electronic message including information describing

#### 4 the status, and

5 transmit the electronic message.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the  
1 computer readable code configured to cause a processor to compose an  
2 electronic message includes computer readable code configured to cause the  
3 processor to compose the electronic message to include information chosen  
4 from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom  
5 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected  
6 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,  
7 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind  
8 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,  
9 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
10 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
11 maintenance items.

1                   12. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a status includes  
3 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a status  
4 chosen from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner low,  
5 preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of  
6 component parts, consumables orders and low or "out of" status for other  
7 consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1                   13. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a status comprises  
3 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a status of  
4 a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile  
5 machines, photocopiers and printers.

1                   14. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the  
2 computer readable code configured to cause a processor to transmit comprises  
3 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to transmit an  
4 electronic message including a consumable order.

1                   15. A computer implemented control system for a hard copy  
2 output engine, the system comprising:  
3                   a sensor coupled to a portion of the hard copy output engine, the  
4 sensor being configured to provide a status of the portion;  
5                   a video interface; and  
6                   processing circuitry coupled to the sensor and to the video  
7 interface, the processing circuitry being configured to:  
8                   detect the status of the portion; and  
9                   display via the video interface and in response to the status,  
10                  a graphical user interface including information to describe the portion  
11                  and the status, and to include a set of user-selectable options including:  
12                  dismissal of the graphical user interface, assistance in ordering  
13                  consumables or services identified by the graphical user interface,  
14                  deferment of action with respect to the consumables or services  
15                  identified by the graphical user interface for a user-selectable interval and  
16                  inhibiting further displaying of the graphical user interface.

1           16. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect the status includes a processor  
3 configured to detect a toner low or toner out status.

1           17. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor is further configured to:  
3           compose an electronic message including information describing  
4 the status; and  
5           transmit the electronic message.

1           18. The computer implemented control system of claim 17,  
2 wherein the processor configured to compose an electronic message includes a  
3 processor configured to compose the electronic message to include information  
4 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom  
5 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected  
6 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,  
7 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind  
8 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,  
9 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
10 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
11 maintenance items.

1           19. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a status includes a processor  
3 configured to detect a status chosen from a list of status items consisting of:  
4 toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or  
5 replacement of component parts, consumables orders and low or "out of" status  
6 for other consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1                   20. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a status comprises a processor  
3 configured to detect a status of a hard copy output engine chosen from a group  
4 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.